

Re: Docket # 98N-1038
"Irradiation in the production processing and handling of food."

My family ⁷⁻²⁶⁻⁵⁹ ~~does not~~ ^{MAY 28 110-58} want irradiated food:

- 1) Have prominent labeling that will include the terms "irradiation" or "irradiated" and the use of the radura symbol
- 2) Continue this labeling as long as this food is sold.

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98N-1038

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Help keep the labeling clear on irradiated foods

The Food and Drug Administration is planning to remove current labeling requirements for irradiated food and comments are urgently needed by May 18. The FDA has approved irradiation for essentially all foods, including fruits and vegetables.

According to a September 1997 *CBS News* report, 77 percent of Americans do not want irradiated food. Without labeling, however, there will be no way to know what food has been irradiated.

Here's what you can do: Send a comment to the FDA demanding prominent labeling that would include the terms "irradiation" or "irradiated" and the use of the radura symbol (the international symbol that indicates radiation treatment). Tell the FDA that the proposed alternative terms such as "cold pasteurization" or "electronic pasteurization" are misleading and should not be used. Say that the absence of a statement would be misleading because irradiation destroys vitamins and causes changes in sensory

and spoilage qualities that are not obvious to the consumer.

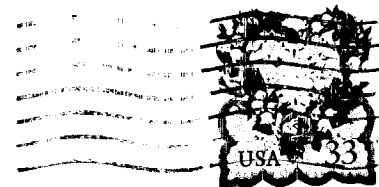
A general statement opposing irradiation will not help because the FDA requests comments on only two issues: 1) whether the wording of the current radiation disclosure statement should be revised and 2) whether such labeling requirements should expire at a specified date in the future.

The complete proposal can be found on the Internet at www.fda.gov/ohrms/dockets/98fr/021799a.txt, and related information can be found at www.irradiation.com/food.htm.

Send comments before May 18 to: Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. Refer to Docket #98N-1038, "Irradiation in the production processing and handling of food." Send a copy of your letter to your congressman and senators.

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